

## **Inputs of the Ministry of Environment of Peru to the draft Declaration “Towards A pollution Free Planet” posed by the President of the UN Environment Assembly**

In a language that an everyday person can read and understand, we suggest to include the following contributions to the list of initial points that the President of the UN Environment Assembly has thought for possible inclusion in the Ministerial Outcome Document:

- Pollution affects every body. **Its impact affects actual and future generations.** It is a massive global challenge with consequences far beyond the environment. The increasing pollution of our air, water, land and seas is a major obstacle towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals set by our leaders in 2015. Pollution is destroying our ecosystems, affecting human health, hampering long-term economic growth and exacerbating social inequalities.
- Pollution is an individual and collective concern the world over, threatening the health and well-being of all of us, whether we live in developed or developing countries. **The moral dimension as the environmental ethics dimension requires each person and humanity to deal effectively with pollution issues.** Urgent action is our responsibility.
- Reducing and eliminating pollution means positively transforming our world, leaving no one behind. It will help ensure that we, as humanity, make a generational leap towards a healthier, safer, brighter, more sustainable future. Our success will have multiple benefits:
  - More people will leave poverty behind; safer and cleaner technologies will drive our economies;
  - Peace, security and stability will help us consolidate inclusive societies, which respect human rights and gender empowerment;
  - We will protect the health of everyone on this planet, today and in the future.
- The UN Environment Programme, as the leading global environmental authority, and the UN Environment Assembly, our highest-level decision making body on the environmental dimension of sustainable development, are key institutions in keeping the state of the environment under review and in addressing the vital environmental challenges of global and regional significance, which we are facing today, such as pollution.
- We recognize that both, our UN Environment Assembly and UN Environment Programme, cannot tackle the challenge of pollution alone and in this regard, we urge the other United Nations inter-governmental bodies, UN specialized agencies, funds and programmes, and all other stakeholders, including business leaders, to contribute towards our effort.
- As the world’s Ministers of Environment, we must be determined, therefore, to take the bold and necessary steps to address pollution at every level –global, regional, national and local- in order to protect the health and lives of all people on this planet, the developmental aspirations

of current and future generations, and the immeasurable wealth of the environment and the natural resources upon which we all depend.

- We invite all governments, businesses, communities and people, and all other stakeholders to make a pollution free planet a reality by 2030 and to support our call to action by determining their own contributions and commitments to achieve **our vision**:
  - Transform our societies to become sustainable and able to support the needs of present and future generations, including through reduction of waste, increases reuse and recycling of materials, innovation, and improved transfer of and access to clean technologies;
  - Increase global, regional and national awareness and education around pollution sources, impacts, and solutions, in order to transform collective and individual mindsets, values and behaviours;
  - Work with the private sector to identify and implement market bases solutions and alternatives to end all forms of pollution;
  - Promote diverse **economic evaluations of pollution and the great impact it causes in economy and well-being; this data helps to underline the huge dimension of the challenge that must be overcome by people and mankind.**
  - **Face the urgent need to innovate and develop economic patterns that reward and enhance sustainable growth and non polluted environment.**
  - **Foster the solidarity solutions and initiatives of households and families to reduce and prevent pollution and contamination contributing thus to protect live, health and attaining better life quality standards;**
  - Improve the health of the environment and ecosystems, and the health of people everywhere, including through stronger, integrated and coherent, policies and laws on air, land and water use and quality standards based on scientific evidence data;
  - Strengthen the implementations and enforcement of environmental laws and policies through capacity building and institutional strengthening, including monitoring systems;
  - Eliminate major sources of marine litter, such as microplastics and the excessive, wasteful usage of single-use plastic by the year 2022;
  - Accelerate efforts to achieve the sound management of chemical and wastes, including a global ban on lead in paint;
  - Reduce by half the amount of untreated wastewater entering water bodies;
  - Substantially improve air quality in cities to within healthy levels for human consumption;
  - Work with the local governments of the world towards promoting sustainable models of urban development that address, in an integrated manner, cleaner and liveable cities;
  - Expand the application and distribution of the best available science and technologies available towards combating the threat of pollution in all its forms;
  - Expand existing and create new multi-stakeholder partnerships, bringing together the Governments, the private sector, civil society, the United Nations system and the people of the world in the implementation of this call to action. **Enhance institutional**

innovations that promote public and private synergies to face global and local pollution challenges.

- Encourage and promote the exchange of good practices, experiences and lessons learned on the matter among diverse institutions and societies.
  - Information regarding the diverse negative impacts of pollution (in live, health, equity, social welfare, poverty and other) must be constantly spread to all families, youth and society by social media. This will increase a consumer's demanding awareness of pollution factors.
- Our goal, collectively, must be a pollution free planet. We welcome the many pledges and commitments being made by Governments, business and civil society. These show that solutions to reduce and eliminate pollution area available and that moving onto a more sustainable path lies in our hands.

JCV, may 2017.